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C. M. PARKER.

September 17, 1860—August 24, 1916.

(Taken largely from a Biographical Sketch by Henry L. Fowkes.)

Charles M. Parker, editor of the *School News and Practical Educator*, died at his home in Taylorville, Illinois, August 24, 1916, after an illness of many weeks.

Mr. Parker was one of the best known educators of Illinois and the Central West, his educational periodical, *The School News*, having subscribers in every state in the Union, and he published more than a million copies of his "Penny Classics" and "Picture Studies."

Charles M. Parker was born September 17, 1860, near Wilkesboro, Wilkes County, North Carolina. His father, Samuel Parker, was a soldier in the Confederate army, and died as the result of the hardships of army service. The mother of C. M. Parker being thus left a widow and without other resources than her own efforts, later married John K. Lundy, and in 1867 Mr. Lundy with his family came to Christian County, Illinois.

The family had been but a few years in Illinois when the father and mother died, within two days of one another, of pneumonia. C. M. Parker was thus left an orphan with a family of five young brothers and sisters to care for. He at once went to work on a farm, attending the district school whenever the opportunity presented itself. He studied every moment of time that he could command, and when he was eighteen years of age he obtained a teacher's certificate. From that time on until his untimely death he gave his time, his services and his enthusiasm to the cause of educating the young. He taught in the rural schools of Christian and Macon Counties and in the city schools of Taylorville until 1888, except during six months which he spent in Westfield College, at Westfield, Illinois.

While teaching in Macon County he came under the influence of John Trainer, then county superintendent of schools of Macon County, and who was at that time perfecting his plan for supervising and grading rural schools. This plan has been generally adopted and has changed to a large extent the method of teaching. Mr. Parker's life was largely influenced by this association with John Trainer. From this plan of study has grown the "State Course of Study," one edition of which was issued by the State Department of Education, but which for the past twenty-five years has been issued by Mr. Parker, as the agent of the State Teachers' Association.

In 1887, while yet connected with the public schools of Taylorville, Mr. Parker founded the School News. On July 11, 1909, the School News printing plant was destroyed by fire. Mr. Parker fortunately saved the plates of his publications, which were stored in a fireproof vault. He at once began the erection of a modern fireproof building. This has been completed and equipped with modern machinery and is the home of the School News.

Mr. Parker was a born teacher and he was much in demand as an instructor at teachers' institutes, to explain the plan and use of the course of study. In this work he visited most of the counties of Illinois and many counties of Indiana and Pennsylvania. By visiting such large numbers of them he was able to observe the good qualities and the defects of various schools and to utilize the good and to devise plans to overcome the faults which he saw. As the influence of the School News grew, Mr. Parker constantly made improvements in it, and of late years he employed scientific specialists to write articles on subjects for which they were peculiarly qualified.

Mr. Parker was a citizen of the most progressive type. He did all he could to advance his home city and took an active part in all public enterprises. He was active also in church and Sunday school work.

In 1883 he married Miss Leonora L. Wright. He leaves besides his widow, two sons and two daughters.

Mr. Parker was for several years a member of the Illinois State Historical Society and was much interested in its work, especially in the quarterly Journal.

In every relation in life Mr. Parker earnestly did his part. He was modest and unassuming, but his methods were direct and forceful. He was very energetic and was possessed of untiring industry. His life was given to the cause of education.

On August 25, 1916, the Teachers' Institute of Christian County, in memorial session, adopted resolutions upon Mr. Parker's death, the words of which express the feeling of the many teachers and pupils throughout the length and breadth of the land at his passing away, and are, in fact, indicative of the sentiment of all who knew Mr. Parker, and describe his leading characteristics as a teacher and a citizen. The resolutions are, in part, as follows:

"We, the teachers of Christian County in institute assembled, do hereby express our sincerest sorrow and regret for the death of Mr. C. M. Parker, who has been a faithful leader among us for so many years. We have learned to love him, to rely upon his judgment and to trust to his advice through the many trials and troubles that come upon us in our school life.

"We deeply deplore the sad loss that not only this community, but the State and nation at large, has sustained. We wish to express our heartfelt sympathy in this moment for his family, and our devotion to his memory as one of the leading educators of our time."